

# H. R. 287.

---

FEBRUARY 11, 1828.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the whole House  
on the state of the Union.

---

## A BILL

*To provide for sick and disabled Seamen.*

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all*  
3 *moneys heretofore collected by virtue of the several acts con-*  
4 *cerning the relief of sick and disabled seamen, and now unex-*  
5 *pended; all moneys which may be hereafter collected by virtue*  
6 *of those acts; and all moneys which may be collected by virtue*  
7 *of this act, shall constitute a General Fund for the relief of sick*  
8 *and disabled seamen within the United States; that all such*  
9 *moneys shall be paid to the Secretary of the Treasury, the*  
10 *Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy, who are*  
11 *hercby constituted a Board of Commissioners, by the style*  
12 *of the Commissioners of the Marine Fund; that the said*  
13 *fund shall be used and employed by the said Commissioners,*  
14 *under the direction of the President of the United States, in*

15 furnishing relief, within the United States, to such of those  
 16 who are required to contribute to the same, as may become  
 17 sick or disabled, in such manner as may best conduce to that  
 18 object, having regard, as far as may be, to an equal distribu-  
 19 tion of the benefits of that fund among all those who contri-  
 20 bute thereto; and that no part of the said fund shall be ap-  
 21 plied or used for any other purpose whatever.

1        SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That, after the thir-  
 2 tieth day of September next, the master or owner of every  
 3 registered vessel of the United States, arriving at any port of  
 4 the United States, either from a foreign port, or from another  
 5 port of the United States, shall, before the entry of such  
 6 vessel, render to the Collector a true account of the number  
 7 of seamen employed, and of the times during which they  
 8 shall have severally been employed on board of such vessel,  
 9 since she last entered at any port in the United States; and  
 10 shall pay to the Collector at the rate of thirty cents a month  
 11 for the time during which every such seaman shall have been  
 12 so employed; which sum the master or owner is hereby au-  
 13 thorized to retain out of the wages of such seaman: And that  
 14 the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized and directed  
 15 to deduct from the pay of the officers, seamen, and marines,  
 16 of the Navy of the United States, at the rate of thirty-five  
 17 cents per month, for every such officer, seaman, and marine,  
 18 and to pay the same, quarter annually, to the Secretary of the

19 Treasury, to be applied to the same purposes as the money  
20 collected under the other provisions of this act.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That, after the thir-  
2 tieth day of September next, no Collector shall grant to any  
3 vessel, whose enrolment or licence for carrying on the coast-  
4 ing trade has expired, or been surrendered, a new enrolment,  
5 license, or register, until the master or owner of such vessel  
6 shall first render to the Collector a true account of the num-  
7 ber of seamen employed, and of the times for which they  
8 shall have severally been employed on board of such vessel,  
9 during the continuance of the licence which has so expired,  
10 or been so surrendered, and shall pay to the Collector at the  
11 rate of thirty cents a month for the time during which every  
12 seaman shall have been so employed; which sum the master  
13 or owner is hereby authorized to retain out of the wages of  
14 such seamen.

1       SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the accounts ren-  
2 dered to the Collectors, of the number of seamen employed,  
3 and of the times during which they shall have severally been  
4 employed, as aforesaid, shall be verified by the oath of the mas-  
5 ter or owner of the vessel; and if any such master or owner  
6 shall render a false account of the number of seamen em-  
7 ployed, or of the times during which they shall have severally  
8 been employed as aforesaid, he shall forfeit and pay three  
9 hundred dollars to the United States.

1       SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the Collectors

2 shall make returns and payments, quarter yearly, of the sums  
3 collected by them, respectively, by virtue of this act, to the  
4 Commissioners of the Marine Fund.

1       SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Commis-  
2 sioners may, under the direction of the President of the Unit-  
3 ed States, purchase land or buildings, and accept donations  
4 of land or buildings, and erect buildings, for Marine Hospi-  
5 tals, at such places as may be proper for the accommodation  
6 of sick and disabled seamen; and that all buildings already  
7 erected as Marine Hospitals, shall be under their control and  
8 direction.

1       SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Com-  
2 missioners may appoint, in such places as they may think  
3 proper, fit persons to be Directors of Marine Hospitals, who  
4 shall be removable at pleasure; that it shall be the duty of  
5 such Directors to superintend such hospitals; to expend the  
6 funds assigned to their respective hospitals; and to provide for  
7 the accommodation of sick and disabled seamen, according  
8 to such instructions as shall be given to them by the said  
9 Commissioners; and that such Directors shall render, quar-  
10 ter yearly, to the said Commissioners, accounts of all moneys  
11 received and expended by them; and shall receive one per  
12 centum upon the moneys so expended.

1       SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Com-  
2 missioners may establish rules and regulations for the go-

3 vernment of the Marine Hospitals, and of all persons em-  
4 ployed therein.

1       **SEC. 9.** *And be it further enacted,* That the said Com-  
2 missioners may, from time to time, invest any part of the  
3 Marine Fund, which may accumulate beyond the sums dis-  
4 bursed for the objects of this act, in the public stocks of the  
5 United States; and may also, from time to time, sell such  
6 stocks for money; and that all such stocks, and the interest  
7 thereon, and all such moneys, shall belong to the Marine  
8 Fund.

1       **SEC. 10.** *And be it further enacted,* That the said Com-  
2 missioners shall make records of all their transactions, acts,  
3 and proceedings; and shall keep regular accounts of all their  
4 receipts and expenditures; and shall, annually, on the first  
5 Monday of January, lay before Congress an account of all  
6 moneys received and expended, by virtue of this act, shew-  
7 ing the amount received and disbursed at different ports;  
8 and that all accounts, arising in consequence of this act, shall  
9 be examined and adjusted by the Fourth Auditor and Second  
10 Comptroller of the Treasury.

1       **SEC. 11.** *And be it further enacted,* That every Director  
2 of a Marine Hospital, in the United States, shall admit into  
3 the hospital of which he is Director, when it may be conveni-  
4 ently done, sick foreign seamen, on the application of the mas-  
5 ter or commander of any foreign vessel to which the sick

6 seamen may belong; that each seaman, so admitted, shall  
7 be subject to a charge of seventy-five cents a day for each  
8 day he may remain in the hospital; that the Director of the  
9 hospital shall render, to the Collector of the district in  
10 which the hospital is, accounts of the charges against each  
11 foreign seaman so placed in the hospital; that such charges  
12 shall be paid by the master or commander of such foreign  
13 vessel, to the Collector; that no clearance shall be granted to  
14 such foreign vessel, until the money due, from the master  
15 or commander, as aforesaid, shall have been paid; and that  
16 the Collector shall account for, and pay, all moneys received  
17 by him, as aforesaid, to the Commissioners of the Marine  
18 Fund.

1        SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be  
2 appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury, not other-  
3 wise appropriated, the sum of  
4                        , being the amount taken from the Navy Hos-  
5 pital Fund, and applied to the pay of the Navy; which sum,  
6 together with nineteen thousand two hundred and four dol-  
7 lars and forty-seven cents, now at the disposal of the Com-  
8 missioners of Navy Hospitals, and all such sums as they  
9 may receive before the first day of October next, shall be  
10 paid to the Commissioners of the Marine Fund, for the pur-  
11 pose of establishing Marine Hospitals, in like manner as is  
12 directed in and by the seventh section of this act.

1        SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That, from and af-  
 2        ter the thirtieth day of September next, the master or owner  
 3        of every boat, flat, or raft, on its arrival at New Orleans,  
 4        shall render to the Collector thereof an attested list of the  
 5        men employed on board of such boat, flat, or raft, and shall  
 6        pay to said Collector thirty-five cents for each person so em-  
 7        ployed, which the master or owner is authorized to retain out  
 8        of the wages of such person; and all persons so returned  
 9        to the Collector, shall be entitled to the relief provided by  
 10       this act for sick and disabled seamen: *And,* if any such mas-  
 11       ter or owner shall fail to render an account, or shall render a  
 12       false account, of the number of persons employed, he shall  
 13       forfeit and pay two hundred dollars; which sum, together  
 14       with all other taxes, fines, and penalties, collected or recover-  
 15       ed by virtue of this act, shall make a part of the said General  
 16       Fund: *Provided,* That the masters of boats, employed in the  
 17       trade to and from New Orleans, in place of paying thirty-  
 18       five cents for each person, at every arrival, may have the op-  
 19       tion to pay thirty-five cents per month for each person em-  
 20       ployed on board such boat: *And, provided, also,* That no part  
 21       of this section shall affect the provisions of the second and  
 22       third sections of this act.

1        SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That all acts, and  
 2        parts of acts, coming within the purview of this act, shall  
 3        be, and the same are hereby, repealed.